

Good day Members of Massasoit (and others)

This is the UNOFFICIAL, uncensored, newsletter for members of the Massasoit Gun Club. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform you of information you are NOT likely to hear from the Executive Committee via the Official Newsletter. This newsletter has NOT been approved or edited (censored) by the management of The Massasoit Gun Club, Inc. I will never report anything in these newsletters that I have not verified personally with at least two independent sources.

“The truth will set you free, but first it will piss you off.” - Joe Klaas, [Twelve Steps to Happiness](#)

If you're new to the list this is the 4th edition, Feb 1st, 2020.

First some old business. Peter Sharkey, our Pistol Team Captain, has shared the proceedings of his hearing with me and it seems the whole thing was about him speaking to the Building inspector. Peter met with the EC on Jan 17<sup>th</sup>. He was accused of speaking with the East Providence Building Inspector contrary to a resolution passed at the 2019 annual meeting which reads “if it can be definitively proved that a person spoke to the Building inspector to the detriment of the club that the member be subject to the disciplinary action as defined by the by laws”.

The Club President, Bill Pennoyer testified that he (Bill) had personally spoken to East Providence Building Inspector, Ted Isabella. Bill said Ted told him Peter did talk to him. Bill also testified that the EC had talked to another person that Ted told Peter had spoken to him. This other person was not identified.

Ted Isabella testified by phone that he never spoke to Bill or anyone else about any conversation he had with Peter. He did confirm that Peter had spoken to him in late July or early August regarding a housing code issue on a property Peter was considering purchasing and Peter asked him to check on the status of a building permit for the gun club. Ted testified that there was no active permit or permit application. Ted was asked if anything Peter had said to him in any way harmed the club or its ability to obtain a permit and his answer was, “no, how could it?”

No EC members asked any questions of Ted. After Ted hung up Bill Pennoyer said Ted's lying and Peter talking to him did cause trouble for the club.

The EC suspended Peter for 1 month, which was the length of time his card had been turned off, and he was reinstated.

I have questioned city officials and they have confirmed that the club's difficulty in obtaining a building has nothing to do with any phone calls they have received regarding the project. They also confirmed that they have received many inquiries about the status of the building permit.

Prior to this incident how many of you even knew that, as a condition of membership in Massasoit Gun Club, you are not allowed to ask the city of East Providence the status of the clubs building permit (which is publicly available information). Once again, the actual resolution reads, **“If it definitively can be proved that a person spoke to the Building Inspector to the detriment of the club, that the member be subject to the disciplinary action as defined by the by-laws.”**

Based on the outcome of the special meeting regarding Peter the EC has decided to simply ignore the “to the detriment of the club” part. Ignoring their own rules is a specialty of this EC.

Which brings me to the January Monthly Meeting.

This was a very long meeting where nothing got done. Nothing got done because our President (contrary to the by-laws) refused to allow any motions to come to the floor to be discussed and voted on.

1. The By-Laws require meetings to be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order.
2. Roberts Rules do not allow the meeting chairperson to decide which motions will be discussed and voted on.
3. If a motion is moved and seconded the chair opens it for discussion and, after a reasonable discussion period, it is voted on, tabled, referred to committee, etc. BUT it IS discussed, and SOMETHING happens with it.
4. The President frequently tells us certain matters are to be voted on only at the annual meeting (he says it's not fair to those who aren't here). The ONLY matter the Massasoit Gun Club by-laws mandate be voted on at an annual meeting are changes to the by-laws themselves. EVERYTHING else should be voted on at a monthly meeting. The members not present have made a choice not to be there. It is also not fair to the membership in general to put off important decisions for a once a year event.

The Masons are an organization which conducts their meetings under Roberts Rules of Order, Both the President and Recording Secretary are members of the Masons so they are well aware of Roberts Rules and are also well aware the rules are being violated.

The club's by-laws are a legal document, filed with the IRS. Club management is required by law to follow them. Violating the by-laws subjects the Club to scrutiny by the Internal Revenue Service who could revoke our 501c 7 non-profit status. Continued violation of the by-laws will certainly result in a lawsuit against the EC. We should not tolerate this.

Speaking of lawsuits....Hopefully at the February 3rd Monthly Meeting this Monday we will have a report on the lawsuit against the contractor/project manager for failing to have the new building construction inspected by the city, which is the main reason for the 2 year stop work order. This should be an open and shut case as our contract with the builder will surely state that all required city and state inspections will be done.

We have seen several accountings of the monies spent on this project and a lot of questions arise. It is my opinion that a significantly more detailed accounting of everything spent on the building project is in order.

Another matter that came up in January is lead contamination in the club. Surface tests were done at many areas throughout the club, both on the ranges and the club house areas, and significant lead contamination was found to be present.

When a bullet leaves the barrel expanding gas along with fine particles of lead are ejected perpendicular to the muzzle in a doughnut shaped pattern. Even shooting jacket and plated ammo still involves vaporized lead from the primer. These particles are ejected in circular, 360-degree direction, up, down and sideways. Unlike the high-pressure gas and particles, the smoke produced during a gunshot floats upward. Adequate ventilation requires all the products of a gunshot to go downrange, away from the shooter, so simply putting a fan behind you will blow the smoke away but do nothing for the lead particles and combustion gases that go in every direction. This is why gun ranges use floor to ceiling ventilation. All the contaminated air must move away from the shooters and be filtered downrange before it is exhausted outside. The ventilation systems at Massasoit are not doing this. I am told that this problem was brought to the attention of the EC in December of 2017 by members who had tested with elevated blood lead levels. I have since determined that many members have elevated blood lead levels (mostly those who shoot at least once a week). The medically acceptable level of blood lead is generally under 5mcg/dL. Long term exposure is not healthy for adults and can present is a more serious problem for children. It seems most shooters tested are in the mid 20's mcg/dL. If you shoot regularly you might want to include a lead test at your next physical. **There is good news here.** The club has set up a lead committee to study the problem. On this committee, there is a medical doctor and a nurse so at least there should be no debate on the medical dangers of lead. The EC has

indicated they are taking the problem seriously and the committee is looking into both cleaning up the contamination in the building and upgrading the ventilation systems on both ranges. Many clubs in the area have professionally designed ventilation systems that provide a clean, comfortable shooting environment. Examples of effective systems can be seen locally at Providence Revolver, Tiverton, Mid State, American Firearms School, Elite Gun Range, The Preserve, Newport Rifle club. This is an easy (but possibly not inexpensive) fix. Gun range design is a very well-established field and there are many companies who specialize in ventilation systems specifically for gun ranges.

I am not aware of the lead committees progress to date. I am told a report will be given to the members at the meeting this Monday night.

And at this meeting, Monday February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm, let's not allow the President to bully the assembly into submission by filibustering. The president's role at these meetings is to FACILITATE the meeting, not rule by fiat.

"Enlighten the people generally, and tyranny and oppressions of the body and mind will vanish like evil spirits at the dawn of day"--THOMAS JEFFERSON

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Best Regards, Jack Falcone